

Fact Sheet

Investing in Prevention: The New National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council (National Prevention Council)

October 5, 2010

Chronic diseases – such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes – are responsible for 7 of 10 deaths among Americans each year and account for 75% of the nation’s health spending. Often due to economic, social, and physical factors, too many Americans engage in behaviors – such as tobacco use, poor diet, physical inactivity, and alcohol abuse – that lead to poor health.

A focus on prevention will offer our nation the opportunity to not only improve the health of Americans but also help reduce health care costs and improve quality of care. By concentrating on the underlying drivers of chronic disease, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) helps us move from today’s sick-care system to a true “health care” system that encourages health and well-being.

A New Commitment to Prevention

The Affordable Care Act signed into law by President Obama creates a National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council. The Council, composed of senior government officials, will elevate and coordinate prevention activities and design a focused National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy in conjunction with communities across the country to promote the nation’s health. The Strategy will take a community health approach to prevention and well-being – identifying and prioritizing actions across government and between sectors.

The National Prevention Council Members

On June 10, 2010 the President signed an [Executive Order](#) creating the National Prevention Council within the Department of Health and Human Services, comprised of the following members:

[Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin](#) MD, MBA, USPHS, Surgeon General, Council Chair

[Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#), Department of Health and Human Services

[Secretary Tom Vilsack](#), Department of Agriculture

[Secretary Arne Duncan](#), Department of Education

[Chairman Jon Leibowitz](#), Federal Trade Commission

[Secretary Ray LaHood](#), Department of Transportation

[Secretary Hilda L. Solis](#), Department of Labor

[Secretary Janet A. Napolitano](#), Department of Homeland Security

[Administrator Lisa P. Jackson](#), Environmental Protection Agency

[Director R. Gil Kerlikowske](#), Office of National Drug Control Policy

[Director Melody Barnes](#), Domestic Policy Council

[Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk](#), Department of the Interior

[Patrick Corvington, CEO](#), Corporation for National and Community Service

[Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.](#), Department of Justice

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National Prevention Council Members (cont'd)

Secretary Robert M. Gates, Department of Defense

Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary Shaun Donovan, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Acting Deputy Director Rob Nabors, Office of Management and Budget

The Council will:

- Provide coordination and leadership to ensure the government is focused on improving prevention, wellness, and health promotion practices.
- With continual public input, make recommendations to the President and the Congress concerning the most pressing health issues confronting the nation and changes in federal policy to achieve national health promotion and public health goals, including the reduction of tobacco use, sedentary behavior, and poor nutrition.

On June 25, the Council held an introductory teleconference to ratify its first [status report](#). This report provides an overview of the Strategy development process, proposed guiding principles, plans to convene the Advisory Group, a work plan and timeline, and a list of Council activities to date.

The Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health

As required by the Act, the President will establish an Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health to help develop the new Strategy. The Advisory Group will reside within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and report to the Surgeon General. It will have up to 25 non-federal members appointed by the President who will develop policy and program recommendations and advise the Council on lifestyle-based chronic disease prevention and management, integrative health care practices, and health promotion.

Developing the New National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy

After obtaining ideas from relevant stakeholders and working closely with the Advisory Group, the Council will develop a National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy that will accomplish the following:

- Set specific goals, measurable actions and timelines to carry out the Strategy to reduce the incidence of preventable illness and disability in the U.S. and promote health and well-being, and;
- Make recommendations to improve federal efforts relating to prevention, health promotion, public health, and integrative health care practices to ensure that federal efforts are consistent with available standards and evidence.

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Other Prevention Priorities in the ACA

The new National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy complements key prevention provisions in the Affordable Care Act which provide a sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs.

The Affordable Care Act makes an unprecedented investment in public health and prevention through the creation of the Prevention and Public Health Investment Fund (the “Fund”).

This new initiative has new resources – \$15 billion over 10 years in mandatory spending – to expand and sustain the necessary infrastructure to prevent disease, detect it early, and manage conditions before they become severe.

The Fund reinforces a renewed focus on prevention and public health to improve well-being and improve quality of care.

For FY2010, \$500 million is dedicated to improving community and clinical prevention efforts, strengthening public health infrastructure, improving research and data collection and bolstering the training of public health and primary care professionals.

The Affordable Care Act Promotes Prevention and Wellness for All Americans

The new law ensures all Americans receive critical clinical and community preventive services and makes public health and prevention a permanent part of the health care system through the following:

- Eliminating cost sharing on recommended preventive services delivered by Medicare and all new insurance plans;
- Providing coverage under Medicare—with no co-payment or deductible—for an annual wellness visit that includes a comprehensive health risk assessment and 5-10 year personalized prevention plan;
- Providing enhanced federal Medicaid matching funds to states who offer evidence-based prevention services and requiring coverage of tobacco cessation services for pregnant women in Medicaid; and,
- Delivering community preventive services by investing in state, territorial, and local public health infrastructure and by providing grants to implement recommended services.